

**ZIONSVILLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS BASKETBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (March 8, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Laila Hull** of **Zionsville Community High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year**. Hull is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Zionsville Community High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Hull as Indiana's best high school girls basketball player. Hull joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Kiki Rice (2021-22, Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.), Paige Bueckers (2019-20, Hopkins High School, Minn.), Nneka Ogwumike (2007-08, CyFair High School, Texas), and Candace Parker (2003-04 & 2002-03, Naperville Central High School, Ill.).

The 6-foot-1 senior guard and forward averaged 22.4 points and 8.3 rebounds per game this past season, leading the Eagles (20-3) to the Class 4A sectional semifinals. Hull also averaged 2.4 steals, 2.1 assists and 1.3 blocks per game. A two-time Hoosier Basketball Magazine First Team All-State selection, she concluded her prep basketball career with 1,668 points.

Hull has volunteered locally on behalf of fundraising campaigns to benefit breast cancer research. She has also donated her time with her school's Black Student Union and by serving as a youth basketball coach. "Laila's game is so fluid she makes it look effortless," said Debbie Smiley, head coach of Brownsburg High School. "She poses a very hard match-up with her skills, frame and athleticism. She also displays tremendous sportsmanship and is an awesome team player."

Hull has maintained a weighted 3.88 GPA in the classroom. She has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Hull joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Basketball Players of the Year Ashlynn Shade (2021-22, Noblesville High School), Jessica Carrothers (2020-21, Crown Point High School), Madison Layden (2019-20, Northwestern High School), and Sydney Parrish (2018-19, Hamilton Southeastern High School), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.